

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An adjustable fifth wheel hitch for towing a trailer behind a motor vehicle, comprising:

a support frame ~~including~~ having a pair of ~~spaced~~ guide rails ;

a head assembly ~~including a jaw assembly for engaging a trailer;~~

an adjustment assembly coupling said head assembly to said pair of ~~spaced~~ guide rails so as to be selectively displaceable between a towing position and a maneuvering position; and

a locking assembly for releasably locking said head assembly in said towing and maneuvering positions, said locking assembly having a locking arm positionable in a locked position ~~being engaged with one of said pair of spaced guide rails~~ and an unlocked position, said locking arm having a camming surface; and

a locking cam cammingly engaging said camming surface on said locking arm so as to position said locking arm in said locked position and said unlocked position.

2. (original) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch according to Claim 1 wherein said pair of spaced guide rails are generally round in cross section.

3 (original). The adjustable fifth wheel hitch according to Claim 1, further comprising: a retaining device selectively engaging said locking arm so as to prohibit unintentional movement of said locking arm from said locked position to said unlocked position.

4. (currently amended) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a guide stud extending from at least one of said pair of spaced guide rails ;

an inboard plate ;

an outboard plate coupled to said inboard plate generally adjacent to said at least one of said pair of spaced guide rails, said inboard plate and said outboard plate generally supporting said locking assembly, at least one of said inboard plate and said outboard having a guide channel formed therein, said guide channel being sized to receive said guide ~~slot~~ stud to generally maintain sliding alignment.

5. (new) An adjustable fifth wheel hitch comprising:

a guide rail;

a head assembly;

an adjustment assembly mounted to the guide rail and carrying said head assembly, wherein said head assembly is selectively displaceable between a towing position and a maneuvering position; and

a locking assembly connected with said adjustment assembly for releasably locking said head assembly in said towing and maneuvering positions.

6. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 5, wherein said adjustment assembly comprises:

an inboard plate;

an outboard plate;

a roller supported by said inboard and outboard plates and rollably engageable with said guide rail and capable of providing substantially non-binding movement of said head assembly relative to said support frame.

7. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 6, wherein said locking assembly comprises a locking arm positionable in a locked position wherein said locking arm engages said guide rail and an unlocked position wherein said locking arm disengages from said guide rail.

8. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 7, wherein said locking arm further comprises a camming surface.

9. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 8, further comprising a locking cam cammingly engaging said camming surface on said locking arm to position said locking arm in said locked position and said unlocked position.

10. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 9, further comprising a second guide rail spaced from said guide rail.

11. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 9, wherein said guide rail has a generally round cross section.

12. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 9, wherein said guide rail has a generally oval cross section.
13. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 9, further comprising a retaining device selectively engaging said locking arm to prohibit unintentional movement of said lock arm from said locked position to said unlocked position.
14. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 13, further comprising a guide stud extending from the guide rail.
15. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch of claim 14, wherein said guide channel is sized to receive said guide stud to generally maintain sliding alignment.
16. An adjustable fifth wheel hitch comprising:
- a support frame having a guide rail;
 - a head assembly; and
 - an adjustment assembly mounted to said guide rail and carrying said head assembly wherein said adjustment assembly comprises:
 - an inboard plate;
 - an outboard plate; and
 - a roller supported by said inboard and outboard plates and rollably engageable with said guide rail capable of providing substantially non-binding movement of said head assembly relative to said support frame and permitting

said head assembly to be selectively displaceable between a towing position and a maneuvering position.

17. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 16 further comprising a pair of guide channels formed along said inboard and outboard plates.

18. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 17 further comprising a plurality of guide studs extending from said guide rail and being adjacent and parallel to said guide channels.

19. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 18 wherein cooperation of said guide channels and said guide studs resists torsional forces exerted upon at least one of said head assembly and adjustment assembly.

20. (new) The adjustable fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 19, further including a handle wherein rotating said handle selectively displaces said head assembly between a towing position and a maneuvering position.